

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

January 3, 2006 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

According to the Examiner, the replacement abstract attached to the Response filed October 11, 2006 underlines old, previously presented material. Applicants have corrected the replacement abstract as requested by removing the underlining. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment complies with 37 C.F.R. § 121, and request that it be entered.

I. Status of the Application

The abstract has been amended to combine the two paragraphs into a single paragraph.

Claims 1 and 22 have been amended to provide that the water content of the organic solution is either set to or maintained at 50 ppm or more. Claim 3 has been amended to provide that the water content is maintained at 50 ppm or more. Support for these amendments is found in the specification at, for example, page 50, line 6. Claims 12, 23, and 55 have been amended to replace the article “a” with “said”. Claim 55 has also been amended to specify that the water content is “maintained” within the specified range, conforming with the limitation of its antecedent claim (claim 3). No new matter has been added to the application.

Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 19, 22-29, 35-37, 41, 42, 44, 49, and 55-67 are pending and at issue.

II. Objection to the Specification

The abstract has been objected to for being divided into two paragraphs. The specification has been amended to combine the paragraphs into a single paragraph as requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 12, 14, 19, 22-29, 35-37, 41, 42, 44, 49, and 55-67 have been rejected under the second paragraph of § 112 as being indefinite due to the phrase “within a predetermined range.”

Independent claims 1 and 22 have been amended to provide that the water content is either set to or maintained at “50 ppm or more.” As amended, claims 1 and 22 particularly set forth the water content of the organic solvent solution, and one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to discern the boundaries of acceptable water content. Claims 2-4, 12, 14, 19, 23-29, and 55-67 depend from claim 1 or 22 and are, therefore, likewise definite. Claims 35-37, 41, 42, 44, and 49, which do not depend from claim 1 or 22, do not recite the phrase “within a predetermined range.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues that the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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REPLACEMENT ABSTRACT

ABSTRACT

An object of the present invention is to provide a method for producing an organic thin film, which enables rapid film formation, and enables a dense organic thin film with minimal impurities to be formed stably, and in a plurality of consecutive repetitions. The present invention provides a method for producing an organic thin film in which an organic thin film is formed on the surface of a substrate, including a step (A) of bringing the substrate into contact with an organic solvent solution containing a metal-based surfactant having at least one hydrolyzable group, and a catalyst capable of interacting with the metal-based surfactant, wherein the water content within the organic solvent solution is either set or maintained within a predetermined range.